



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning, 1999** 2
The vast majority of Canadian parents hope their children will get some form of college or university education, according to a new survey. However, in the case of more than half of these children, their parents have not set aside educational savings for their post-secondary schooling.

OTHER RELEASES

- Steel wire and specified wire products, February 2001 5
- Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, February 2001 5

NEW PRODUCTS



MAJOR RELEASES

Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning

1999

The vast majority of Canadian parents hope their children will get some form of college or university education, according to a new survey. However, in the case of more than half of these children, their parents have not set aside educational savings for their post-secondary schooling.

The parents of 87% of children aged 18 and under reported to the 1999 Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning that they wanted their children to get an education beyond high school. However, parents of only 41% had savings in 1999 devoted expressly for college or university.

Not surprisingly, the gap between aspirations and savings behaviour was widest in households at the lowest end of the income scale.

In addition, the survey showed that the amount of money parents have been putting aside for the post-secondary education of most children is substantially short of the current estimated total average cost of attendance.

And even if they had savings, most parents expected that their children would require additional financial resources to pay for their post-secondary education. Parents of half the children expected their children would need to take out a loan; in the vast majority of cases, these loans were expected to take the form of government student loans, rather than bank loans or loans from family members.

Again, income played a major role in expectations for needing student loans, which were highest among parents in households in the lowest income groups.

Earlier studies have shown that finishing post-secondary studies plays a major role in an individual's success in the labour market. Post-secondary graduates' earnings tend to be higher, and their chances of becoming unemployed are lower.

In fact, about one-fifth of young people aged 18 to 24 attended university full-time in the 1997/98 academic year, up from 15% in 1987/88. Similarly, one-quarter of young people aged 18 to 21 were enrolled full-time in college in 1997/98, up from 19% in 1987/88.

Saving for a child's post-secondary education

The parents of 80% of the 1.5 million children in lower-income households (those with incomes of less

Note to readers

Data in this release come from the new Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning (SAEP), conducted by Statistics Canada in partnership with Human Resources Development Canada.

SAEP is the first Statistics Canada household survey to collect detailed information on how Canadians prepare for their children's post-secondary education. The survey was conducted in October 1999 as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey. Data were collected concerning 20,353 children aged 18 years or under in 1999.

The survey assessed the means by which parents plan and prepare for the post-secondary education of their children.

SAEP collected detailed information concerning two key sets of practices:

Financial preparation: This includes whether savings are being set aside for their children's post-secondary education; awareness of the cost of post-secondary schooling; types of savings vehicles; and expectations regarding other means of financing post-secondary studies, including potential demand for student loans.

Non-financial preparation: This includes, for example, communicating their aspirations and expectations concerning participation in post-secondary studies to their children; the extent of parental involvement in their children's learning and schooling; and attitudes and practices concerning homework and television viewing.

Detailed information was collected for both children and households, allowing analysis by such characteristics as children's age, gender, grade in school, academic performance, number of children in the family, household income, and parental education, occupation, and labour force status.

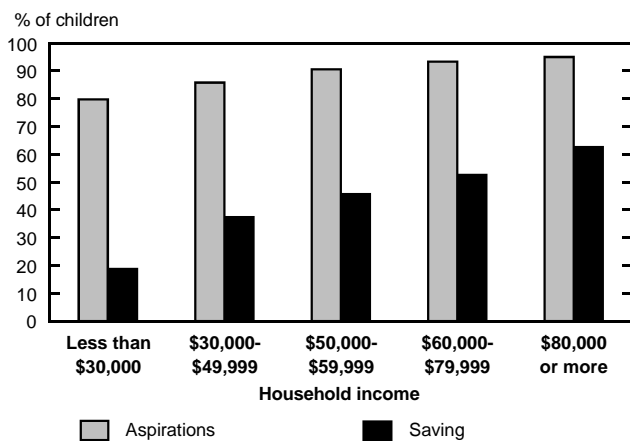
This release focuses on children and the ways in which their parents prepare financially for their post-secondary education.

than \$30,000 in 1999) hoped that their children would pursue post-secondary studies, compared with 95% of children in households with incomes of \$80,000 or more.

However, parents reported education savings for fewer than 20% of children living in households in which the income was under \$30,000. In contrast, in households with incomes of \$80,000 or more, parents reported savings for 63% of children.

Parents' education level also played a role. The majority of parents, regardless of their level of education, wanted a post-secondary education for their children. However, education savings were reported for only 16% of children living in households in which the parents or guardians had less than high school completion. In households in which at least one of the parents had a graduate degree, the proportion was nearly four times higher, 60.5%.

Post-secondary aspirations for children and saving behaviour, by household income



Post-secondary aspirations and saving for post-secondary education

	Percentage of children whose parents/guardians:	
	Hope they will attend post-secondary school	Are saving for their post-secondary education
All children	87.1	40.7
Household income		
Less than \$30,000	79.8	18.7
\$30,000-\$49,999	85.8	37.4
\$50,000-\$59,999	90.6	45.6
\$60,000-\$79,999	93.4	52.6
\$80,000 or more	95.0	62.6
Highest parental educational attainment		
Less than high school	70.4	16.0
High school completion	81.8	32.7
Some post-secondary	86.3	31.9
Trades certificate	83.8	34.3
Community college/CEGEP/ university certificate	90.3	44.8
Bachelor's degree	94.9	55.9
Graduate degree	96.7	60.5
Newfoundland	81.8	43.8
Prince Edward Island	80.0	35.9
Nova Scotia	85.5	44.5
New Brunswick	81.3	41.5
Quebec	85.8	28.8
Ontario	90.1	43.6
Manitoba	81.0	45.1
Saskatchewan	79.8	50.7
Alberta	84.8	44.5
British Columbia	88.5	44.9

Savings substantially short of estimated total post-secondary costs

The survey showed that parents generally had saved nowhere near the estimated amount required to put their

children through an entire post-secondary education. The median accumulated value of educational savings reported in 1999 for all children aged 18 or under in 1999 was \$3,000 (educational savings were above this level for half of all children and below this level for half).

There was a clear relationship between the amount of savings and a child's age. For those with educational savings, parents reported median accumulated savings of \$1,500 for each child aged four or under and \$5,000 for each child aged 14 to 18.

However, in the fall of 2000, for example, undergraduate arts students in Canada paid on average \$3,378 in tuition, up from \$1,496 in 1990/91. Undergraduate tuition fees vary considerably from province to province and for different programs of study. Undergraduate arts tuition fees were lowest for residents of Quebec, where tuition costs remained at less than half those in other provinces in virtually all fields of study.

Median savings for each child for education declined as the number of children in the household increased. In households with only one child, median accumulated savings were \$3,600 in 1999. That fell to \$3,000 per child in households with three children, and to \$2,500 per child where there were four children or more. For all age groups, median savings tended to increase with household income.

Most parents anticipated their children would work while in school

Parents of 70% of children anticipated that their youngsters would help put themselves through college or university by working while in high school. And an even greater percentage of children, 86%, were expected by their parents to work while attending a post-secondary institution.

Nevertheless, parents of 50% of children expected that their children would require additional financial resources, such as loans, to pay for their post-secondary education, whether or not they had educational savings set aside.

For 94% of children, these loans were expected to take the form of government student loans, rather than bank loans or loans from family members.

Expectations regarding other means of financing post-secondary education

	Proportion of children expected to:		
	Work before starting post-secondary studies, including while in high school	Work while in post-secondary school	Take out a loan to help finance their post-secondary education
All	70.2	85.8	50.3
Saving status			
Savers	71.7	85.7	48.3
Non-savers	68.0	85.9	52.9
Household income			
Less than \$30,000	73.1	86.8	64.0
\$30,000–\$49,999	72.4	86.4	60.1
\$50,000–\$59,999	71.5	86.9	52.5
\$60,000–\$79,999	69.2	86.1	45.9
\$80,000 or more	65.0	83.5	33.1
Newfoundland	65.5	86.9	61.9
Prince Edward Island	92.2	95.9	66.1
Nova Scotia	87.0	90.8	68.3
New Brunswick	79.7	90.9	72.7
Quebec	45.2	77.1	40.5
Ontario	80.0	88.9	49.7
Manitoba	75.1	88.8	52.8
Saskatchewan	78.3	90.1	64.2
Alberta	75.5	87.5	55.4
British Columbia	72.4	86.0	51.7

Two-thirds of children in households in the lowest income group were expected by their parents to need to take loans to help finance their post-secondary education. This percentage decreased steadily as household income rose. Still, about one-third of children in the highest income group were expected by their parents to need a loan.

Potential demand for loans was highest in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, where two-thirds of children were expected by their parents to need to rely on loans to help finance their post-secondary education.

Parents began saving when child was young — or not at all

Parents who had savings set aside expressly for their children's post-secondary education tended to begin those savings when the child was very young. Those who did not start when the child was young tended never to start.

In the case of one-half of the children for whom there were educational savings, the child was one

year old or less when their parents started saving for their post-secondary education. In the case of 75% of children for whom educational savings were reported, the child was 5 or younger when savings began.

Households reporting savings used various types of savings plans. The most common were Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs), reported by parents of about 40% of children.

These were followed by in-trust accounts, reported for 35% of children. Other types of savings plans, such as bank accounts and Registered Retirement Savings Plans, were reported for 48% of children. Households reported using more than one type of savings plan for individual children.

The use of RESPs was lowest in Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Alberta, where such plans were reported for about one-third of children. RESP usage rates were highest in British Columbia, where they were reported for 45% of children for whom there were educational savings, and Newfoundland, where they were reported for 44% of children.

Types of education savings plans

	Savings are held in:		
	Registered Education Savings Plans	In-trust accounts	Other
	% of children		
All provinces	40.3	34.7	48.1
Newfoundland	44.3	28.5	41.5
Prince Edward Island	32.5 ^m	35.3 ^m	50.4
Nova Scotia	38.5	36.5	41.2
New Brunswick	40.2	36.6	42.5
Quebec	39.4	25.2	44.8
Ontario	42.0	33.6	48.8
Manitoba	35.7	38.0	51.8
Saskatchewan	34.1	47.3	44.7
Alberta	34.6	43.5	47.9
British Columbia	44.8	36.8	53.5

m High level of error associated with this estimate.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services, Centre for Education Statistics (1-800-307-3382; educationstats@statcan.ca) or Kathryn McMullen (613-951-0203; kathryn.mcmullen@statcan.ca), Family and Labour Studies Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel wire and specified wire products

February 2001

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 60 295 metric tonnes in February, down 14.9% from 70 890 tonnes in February 2000. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The February 2001 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Don Grant (613-951-5998; grantdo@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

February 2001

Chemical firms produced 203 192 metric tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in February, a 7.6% decrease from 220 006 tonnes in February 2000.

Year-to-date production totalled 407 996 tonnes, down 4.6% from 427 611 tonnes produced in the same period of 2000.

Data are also available on production of 3 other types of synthetic resins and 24 industrial chemicals.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.

The February 2001 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins* (46-002-XIB, \$5/47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mireille Paquette (613-951-1058; mireille.paquette@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Coal mining, 1999
Catalogue number 26-206-XIB (\$19).

Steel wire and specified products, February 2001
Catalogue number 41-006-XIB (\$5/\$47).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCD are electronic versions on compact disc.

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

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 68.1% of Canadians took an average of about 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was initially weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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